

## County Vacation Schools

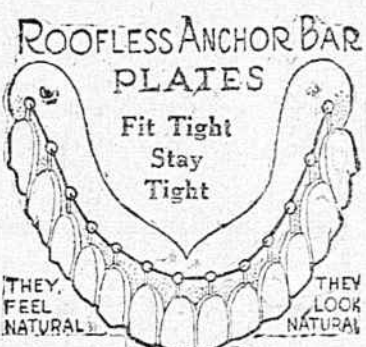
Richmond, Sept. 9.—The State Board of Education has for the past four years been encouraging vacation schools in inaccessible sections of the Commonwealth where it has been difficult to maintain regular schools. Under the plan adopted the State Board makes contribution to the salary of the teacher and assists the local superintendent in supervising the conduct of those schools. The development of this work has been in a few counties particularly encouraging.

In Buchanan in Southwest Virginia the term of the vacation schools has just closed. Twenty-one different schools were operated in this county, the morning session being devoted to children of school age, and the evening classes and special classes to illiterate adults. In this county alone there were 860 pupils attending vacation schools during the summer months. In evening classes there were enrolled and regularly instructed 292 men over twenty-one years of age, and 239 women, making a total of 532 adults.

The Department has received through Mr. M. L. Combs, the Division Superintendent of Buchanan County, a number of letters expressing high appreciation of the work done. There is one letter from a lady 72 years of age who states that when she entered the vacation school she could not make a letter, but that her progress was so satisfactory, that now she can write letters to her friends. She has great satisfaction in her newfound capacity to write letters. In one case a vacation school was founded at a point where several of the local men asserted no attendance could be secured. Through the unusual diligence of the teacher a large enrollment, ranging in age from 5 to 70, were soon gathered at the school. Some of the adults could neither read nor write, but at the end of this six weeks' session most of them were able to write a tolerably legible hand, and could make some headway in readers of the second and third grade. Many of these adults walked over three miles at night after working hard all day in order to attend the evening school.

In many instances, the teachers of these schools visited the homes of the patrons, and in every way encouraged them to improve their mental and social standing. There is evidence that the vacation school served as a fine incentive to improve not only the educational but the general social situation in the community.

One teacher reports that 82 visits to homes made by her, another teacher reports 40, etc. These teachers are very carefully selected and are women of culture and education. The vacation school offers a particularly helpful means of bringing people who have not had the advantage of early training into close contact with influences which must prove most helpful.



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## CIRCULAR LETTER TO DENTISTS

Richmond Virginia, Sept. 9.  
Dear Doctor:—

There is today not a single recognized authority on medical teaching who will say that medicine and dentistry should be separated. To the contrary these subjects are now conceded to be so thoroughly interrelated that they form a single profession, dentistry being a specialty of medicine.

You know, even if the public generally does not know, that the student of dentistry must learn just as the student of medicine learns at College, anatomy, histology, embryology, physiology, bacteriology, pathology, physical diagnosis, radiology, and the principles of surgery.

Dr. Alderman, when he says that in time a dental school may be established at Charlottesville, admits that the dental school is not a hope of the immediate future. Consequently, if quality of education which they need to fit them properly to attend the people of the State, it will be compelled either to combine the medical colleges in Richmond or to teach medicine at Charlottesville and dentistry in Richmond.

If the former alternative is accepted, dentistry as well as medicine will be benefited. If the latter is the will of the Legislature of Virginia, there will again be alternatives to consider.

The first of these alternatives is that medicine being taught at Charlottesville and dentistry at Richmond, the studies above mentioned will have to be taught at each place and there will be an unnecessary duplication of teaching costs. The other alternative, and by far the more likely, is that the State's dental school will either lapse into insignificance and

ultimately die, or that dentistry will be taught in Richmond at a medical school entirely dissociated from the medical department of the University of Virginia, which would mean that this important branch or specialty of medicine would not be helped by the State, and would not have the dignity and importance to which it is justly entitled.

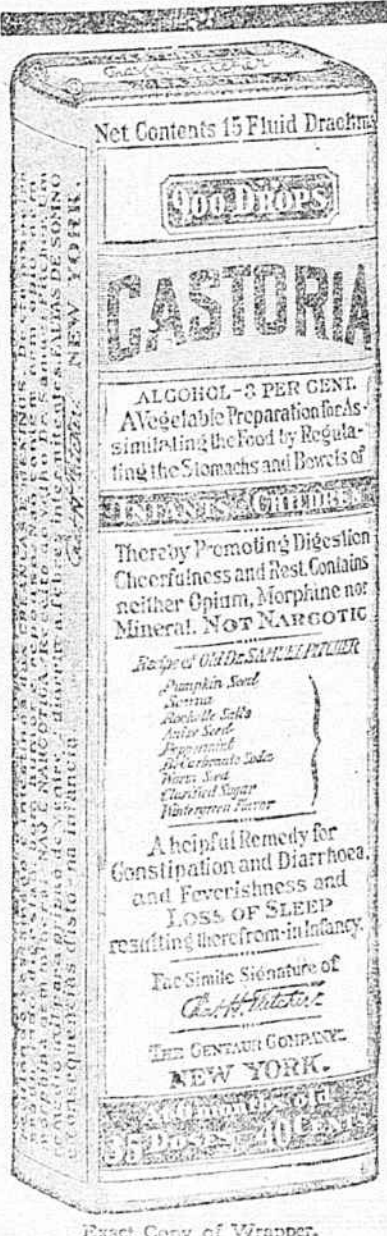
It is not a matter of pride merely that makes us, dentists, take such a serious interest in this controversy. We are convinced that for a time at least, and possibly permanently, dental education in Virginia will suffer if the State's medical school goes to Charlottesville, and this would be a distinct misfortune.

There are only nineteen classes in dental schools in the United States

and the Richmond school is one of them. Through association with a class in a medical college it is now costing the State comparatively little money to maintain this distinction and it is of incalculable value to the people of Virginia that its dentists should have the quality of training that can be given only by a dental school of the highest class.

If an adequate dental school should be attempted as a separate institution, dissociated from the medical college or operated in another city it would cost Virginia virtually half the present expenditures for medicine, dentistry and pharmacy.

It is our firm conviction that such education cannot be imparted at Charlottesville even in the remote future which Dr. Alderman seems to think possible, and we therefore ask you,

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this week two copies of a bulletin which contains important information. One copy is for you, the other we hope you will take to your legislative representative and discuss with him the responsibility which rests upon him in deciding for the well being of dentistry in Virginia.

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